



June 2010

Volume 6, Issue 6

Copyright RCT

From The Editor...

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Hello Again...

Well, yet another month has come and gone...

Time passes quickly when you're busy. We are about to enter the summer months when many folks are gone, whether they are on vacation or just out on the weekends. Summer is usually a quiet time for radio activities, due to

the normal summer doldrums in propagation and other activities taking priority over hobbies like radio.

W7DK has two big activities coming up, and they are relatively close. By that, I mean they are both coming up soon on the calendar and they are only one week apart.

I am talking about Field Day and the Jim Kirkreit club picnic.

The club picnic will be on Saturday June 19th at Spanaway park from 1130 to 1400. There is a three-dollar per car admission fee for the young folks and a one dollar per car fee for seniors and handicapped. Information on this activity can be found on the W7DK website.

Unfortunately, the editor and staff, (such as we are), have not yet figured out how to import a PDF file from the website into this stellar publication... So that is all I can do for now, is to point you towards the club website. You can also get the information at the clubhouse on any Saturday.

Next on the Activity list for June is Field Day, June 26th and 27th. Information on field day is also on the website.

Generally speaking though, field day this year is being held at the same location as the last two years, at the Western State Hospital grounds at the corner of 87th and Steilacoom here in beautiful downtown Lakewood.

Well, that's about it for now.

73 Gary WG7X



**Radio Club of Tacoma
Board Meeting May 5, 2010**

Board Members Present: Jill Palmer, Rick Rose, Alan Lentz, Frank Palmer, Joe Lester, Gary McAdams, Si Nelsen, Ken Gibson. Peter Baker attended as the Parliamentarian.

Board Members Absent: Harry Adams

The meeting was called to order at: 7:00 PM

Correspondence: Five Tube Bids have been submitted to date.

Treasurers Report: Joe passed out the monthly summary report. \$4920.46 is the current bank balance. Money is being spent faster the 1st quarter of 2010 over 2009. Building expenses came in in 2010, and membership deposits were delayed.

Committee Reports:

Jill reminded the group that it OK to ask for help if it is becoming difficult to accomplish RCT jobs assigned.

Planning Committee: Larry Watson provided a planning committee, Hamfest, and Picnic update report.

Radioactive weekend: Larry Watson reported that six families attended at Westport. 1 Bunny was hidden. Attempted to contact the Whiskey Group. Toured the winery & visited the light-house.

W7DK at the Fair: Steve Morton reported that confirmation of Fair space will be by late May. Anticipating communicating with club members later in June. Will look at getting the calendar out in August for signing people up to volunteer.

Class Requests: Steve Morton reported that interest will be solicited for both a General and Extra class to see if one or both should be held. RCT Received an award from ARRL for the Challenge 500 – recruiting the most new hams to their license. John Clarke accepted the award on behalf of RCT from ARRL WWA Section Manager Jim Pace at the Communications Academy.

Membership Report: Rick Rose noted that with the end of April, everything has slid for one month. He anticipates that memberships are still coming in. With the cut off being in two weeks or so. Following that the roster should be completed. No definite date for completion has been provided. Some membership checks have not been processed yet.

Property Management Report: Frank Palmer some items will be offered to members for auction for antenna tower Hi Gain High Tower and Heathkit SB200 Green amplifier to begin on May 5, 2010 and run through July 6th, 2010. Bidding will stop at noon on Saturday. All mail in bids must be into the post office by midnight on July 5th. All other bids may be hand delivered by noon on July 6th.

Bylaws Committee: Rodney WV7O reported that three sections of the current bylaws are still being reviewed. Have made some reorganization, rewording, and additional items to incorporate. They are evaluating committee structure.

Field Day Report: Si Nelson showed the new Field Day signs.

Mothers Day Breakfast: Bob Purdom and Frank Palmer will be cooking pancakes on May 15th at the clubhouse.

General Report: Rich Patrick reports that the alarm parts are in and that people need to show up and to start installing. Not yet ready to start. Assembling group on May 9th. No museum report to provide at this time. Ebay group Rich, Pat & Chuck. Ebay and Paypal account are created and ready for use.

Ken Gibson reported on Emergency Operations. A more detailed report will be provided following field day.

Jill announced that Leon from HRO in Portland has asked her to come assist at SEAPAC. Jill requested flyers from Larry. June 29th Jill will be having major surgery & not available for likely one month.

Unfinished Business:**New Business:**

Frank Palmer makes a motion that the Board approve not more than \$725 to purchase a new projector.

Ken Gibson seconded the motion. Discussion was that this is needed but that might wait until membership funds are deposited. Frank Palmer withdrew the motion.

Frank Palmer made a motion to cut an extra set of keys to the garage so that Bob Heselberg can get into the garage to mow the lawn in Al Churchill's absence.

Ken suggested that an assistant secretary be recruited.

Other: Frank Palmer reported a theft from the tower of the base plate. Also a large part of an antenna was missing.

Good of the Order: What is the status of the copier? Rick Rose moved to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at: 8:30 PM

VE REPORT John AC7WW

We had thirteen candidates at the Radio Club of Tacoma on Tuesday, May 11th, 2010. We were little short on Volunteer Examiners with only five present and they did double duty grading nineteen elements with fourteen being passed.

Ten new Technicians and one General joined the Amateur Service. Two candidates upgraded to Extra. All candidates either got a new license or an upgrade.

Thanks to the following VE's for their time and effort.

Harry, W7HSA

Steve, AD7VL

Jan, K7HTU

Rich, KK7VH

The next scheduled testing session will be Tuesday, June 8th, 2010.



A Hunteen Wee Will Go, A Hunteen Wee Will Go... Hi Ho da Dario...(Imagine Elmer Fudd singing)... by Rich KR7W Barkie Guest Reporter

May 22 was the annual CQ Magazine sponsored International Amateur Radio Direction Finding hidden transmitter hunt date.... And Hunters were out in the park in the Tacoma area. Fort Steilacoom Park, to be exact. Your usual transmitter hiders, Al N7OMS, Chuck AC7QN, and Rich KR7W hid 8 transmitters in the vast park for hunters to find. Also, this year there was a "calibration" transmitter, Number 9, to assist new hunters. More on that later.

The weather was stormy the week before the Saturday hunt... but an opening in the clouds appeared and we had partly sunny conditions from Noon to 4:30 PM. Seventeen hunters, some new to the activity, and some experienced signed the "we won't sue Al, Rich, Chuck", sign-in sheet. Hunters came from Port Angeles, Olympia, Bremerton area, Renton, and locally. It was a nice turn out for antennas in the park.

Five transmitters (International hunt) in diverse different locations on the same frequency were hidden and turned on for one minute at a time in sequence. This means that if you were hunting #1 and didn't quite find it's location... you would have to wait for four more minutes before it turned back on.

Transmitters 6, 7, and 8 (ammo can style) are on different 2 meter frequencies. These transmitters turned on for 30 seconds and off for 35 seconds. These were less frustrating to find.

Al N7OMS hid numbers 1, 3, and 5. Chuck AC7QN hid 2, 4, and 6. Rich KR7W hid 7 and 8. Number 9, the calibration bunny, was not really hidden, but connected to KR7W's mobile 2 meter rig via a 100 ft coax jumper. It transmitted for 30 seconds and then shut off for 30 seconds. The object of this not really hidden bunny was for the "Elmer on staff", Bruce WE7P, to show new

hunters how to use the equipment that was available to borrow... as it is sometimes difficult for the newbie to manipulate the attenuator to reduce the signal strength to the 2 meter Handy Talkie when really close to the transmitter.

Joe asks if the hunters are really finding the transmitter. Not actually... they are finding the signal source— which is the antenna. Mounted on the antenna mast is a cutout of a rodent (rabbit, squirrel, beaver, mouse). The cutout has a sticker on it that spells out the 'secret code' to jot down on your score sheet along with how much time it took the hunter. How else will the judges know you found the transmitter? Joe thinks that is a good idea and it makes the game fun since it can be scored.



Three hams came from the Silverdale/Bremerton area to discover ARDFing. One of their goals was learn how to do this so they could introduce this activity to Boy Scouts at an upcoming campere... as ARDFing incorporates Orienteering and Radio skills into one activity. Scouts can earn merit badges in these activities. One of these hams is now building his own equipment as result of this outing.

One ham from Olympia, who brought his wife, was a first time hunter. Once they found transmitter #9, they were out and had a great time.

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Some new hams from the Radio Club of Tacoma came out to explore this activity. Jim KE7PVZ (PaaaaaaPaaaaah Victor Zulu) and his dad, David KF7GBL, along with Jim's daughter seem like they are now hooked on finding wabbits in the park. Jim says he is building three tape measure Yagi antennas and is ordering parts to build some attenuators.

Lee, KC7VAA, brought his grand daughter, borrowed an antenna and attenuator and were off to find Bugs in the bushes.

Neil WA7NBF, a seasoned hunter from Port Angeles quickly found all of the transmitters but struggled with #5. Art Jury KF7GD and his very young son Joe came from Renton.



Here's young Joe Jury who came with his dad, Art KF7GD. The director of the TM Yagi is 41 inches long, which gives an indication of Joe's young age.

Transmitter #5, an international style (1 minute on, 4 minutes off) was received complements on its clever hiding place or curses for the difficulty in finding it. I'd say 80% curses. This transmitter hidden by Al N7OMS was hidden in plane sight at a water tank on top of a hill... behind the chain

link fence gate. A lot of hunters testified that once they got close they couldn't tell which way the signal was coming from. Apparently the signal was bouncing off of the fence into the metal water tank and back to the fence which caused many multi path reflections emitting in all directions. When I was hunting this transmitter I ran into Worth W7WG who was hiking the trail up the hill. When the transmitter came on... I ran up the hill and circled the tank. No luck. After a four minute wait, I circled the tank again and found T#5 very close to the inside of the fence. It looks like Al had enough room to reach his wrist between the gap in the gate opening and hammered the antenna mast into the gravel. It was too close so it was hard to see. Worth remarked "how do the radio waves emit from this antenna? The waves are too long to get through the fence". The magic of radio, I guess.



Worth, W7WG, scrambles up the hill to the tank where KR7W suspected was hidden. The chain link fence in the photo surrounds the water tank.

Transmitter #8 was advertised as having "trickery" in its hiding. This ammo can transmitters antenna was a four element

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Yagi which is very directional. The antenna was hidden in some deep brush and aimed towards a water tank up on the hill. The trickery was to be in two parts: The signal would reflect from the water tank and hunters would be fooled by the signals direction... And there was a fake antenna in the vicinity of the real antenna with the hope that hunters would think they found the wabbit and jot down the fake secret code. Not every hunter turned in their score sheet... but the score sheets that I've seen show that no one was fooled by KR7W's effort.

Joe thinks that this article is getting way to long for one sit down... so I will end it now. Thanks to all who came out to hunt and to those who provided support to the hunters. I had a good time and it looked like others did, too.

One last thing... when I was hunting for hidden transmitters, almost every dog-walker, jogger, stroller pushing mom, and other park visitors asked me, "How many have you found?" This tells me that folks are interested in what us folks with antennas are doing... and we are telling the folks what we are doing. It also tells me that we had a large turn out for antennas in the park.

The next ARDF hunt will be at the Radio Club of Tacoma's summer picnic... Saturday, June 19, at Spanaway Lake Park. See www.w7dk.org for info.



Bob, AD7WU, built himself a TM Yagi and an active attenuator for his first ARDF outing. Plans ARDF equipment can be found on the w7dk.org website

WWW.W7DK.ORG

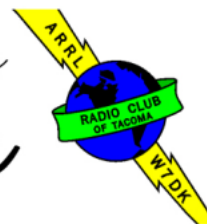


Here's CT N7UH, getting coaching from Worth W7WG and Al N7OMS right behind CT. Check out the different but efficient design TM Yagi.

Regards... and thanks for reading this blather, Joe. -30-



The Radio Club of Tacoma's
Logger's Bark



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Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is \$30 per calendar year. \$25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay \$15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5 *Central Tacoma Packet:* 144.970

Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

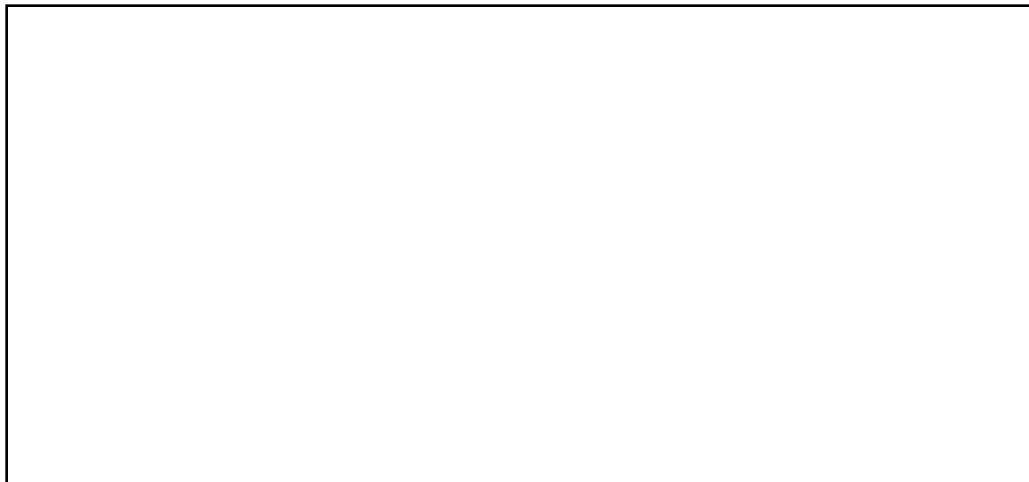
The Loggers Bark

Radio Club of Tacoma, INC.

PO Box 11188

Tacoma, WA 98411

To RCT Member:



JUNE 2010 EVENTS

CLUB MEETINGS: Wednesdays June 9th and 23rd at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting: Wednesday June 2nd 7:00 PM at the RCT clubhouse. All members are welcome to attend.

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Support our club: Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz.